

Fall 2005

## Time Lines Fall 2005

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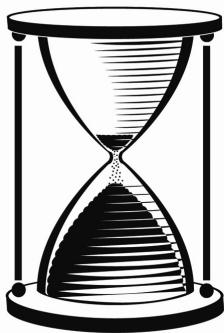
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# Time Lines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SUNY College at Brockport  
Volume 17, Issue 1

Fall 2005

## Upcoming Events

The Synnestvedt Lecture will take place on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Hartwell Hall Theater. The speaker will be Professor Adrienne Davis, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law. Professor Davis will explore laws that regulated interracial intimacy in the nineteenth-century United States in a talk titled "Slavery, Sexuality, and the Law."

Dr. Colm Lennon of the National University of Ireland in Maynooth will speak on issues of religion in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Ireland on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm in Room 220 Seymour Union.

## Graduate News

by Jenny Lloyd

The program has admitted 27 students for the coming academic year, about ten more than usual. In May 2005 eight MA students graduated, and in August several more. Of the May graduates four achieved permanent teacher certification, one continues in a teacher certification program, one continues his legal practice, and two have been accepted to Ph.D. programs: Michael Mayne (MA 2005) will attend the University of Florida with a full scholarship and TA position, while Daniel Broyld (MA 2005) has been accepted to the doctoral program in history at Howard University. Two earlier graduates have also been accepted to Ph.D. programs: Vassilios Pinopoulos (BS 2002, MA 2004) to the Modern European doctoral program at Auburn University, and Sara K. Rosenfeld (MA 2000) to the doctoral program in Higher Education Administration at Boston College. Newly admitted MA student Chuck Sparnecht will give a talk on December 12 at the Susan B. Anthony House, titled "1906: What a Year!"

## A Note From the Chair

by Kathleen Kutolowski

Thank you to all who wrote in response to the last issue of *Time Lines* and for your good wishes to the new Chair. Your letters and emails reaffirm our common sense of purpose as students and scholars of the past, even as we struggle to comprehend the present human tragedy unfolding along the Gulf Coast.

The Department had a very good year in 2004-05. History majors swept all three prizes in the College's annual Celebration of Writing (Scholarly/Critical Writing category) and presented 20 papers

at Scholars Day. Dr. Jennifer Lloyd received continuing appointment (tenure) and promotion to Associate Professor, and three faculty members won SUNY-wide recognition: Dr. John Daly, Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence; Dr. Kenneth O'Brien, Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Faculty Service; and Dr. Lynn Parsons, Chancellor's Research Recognition Award.

We said good-bye, reluctantly, to Lynn and Anne Parsons, who are now ensconced in Castine, Maine, where the Red Sox play nightly on NESN. Happily, we welcome Dr. Meredith Roman, a specialist on Russian and Soviet history. In Spring 2006 undergraduates will have their first opportunity since Dr. Robert Strayer's retirement three years ago to take History of the Soviet Union.

A busy and exciting fall stretches ahead with the annual Synnestvedt Lecture on September 29<sup>th</sup> and the second in a series of exchange lectures with the Department of History of the National University of Ireland at Maynooth on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (see Upcoming Events on this page).

History continues to grow at Brockport with 459 majors registered for courses this fall and with the MA program admitting 25 new students, 18 of them full time! Even as we grow and move forward, we treasure the connections to our collective past in the Department. Stay in touch please! On the back of *Time Lines* you'll find a convenient mail-in form to share your news, or just email.



# Welcome To Dr. Meredith Roman



Dr. Meredith Roman with her collection of Russian postcards.

by Arden Bucholz

The Department of History is pleased to welcome Dr. Meredith Roman to the faculty. She will be teaching modern world as well as upper-division and graduate courses on her research interests: Russian, Soviet, Modern European, and Cold War history. This fall Dr. Roman is teaching two sections of History 102 and an MA seminar on Race, Nationality, and Gender in Modern Russia. She looks forward to offering HST 343: History of the Soviet Union next spring.

Her 2005 doctoral dissertation from Michigan State University was on the Soviet campaign of the 1920s and 1930s to present the USSR as a society beyond racism, in contrast to the racist USA. It draws on theories developed in comparative Black history and the history of the British Empire. At MSU she was a teaching and research assistant for five years, and then taught Twentieth-Century Russia as her own course. She gained a reputation as a tireless worker, complex thinker, and excellent teacher at MSU. Dr. Roman has lived, studied, and researched in both Azerbaijan and Moscow, and has published two articles on issues of racism in both Soviet and post-Soviet society. A third article is under review, and she is working on preparing her dissertation as a book manuscript. She plans to return to Moscow in the summer of 2006 to further her research.



Christopher Schultheis models the history t-shirt.

## History Forum News

by Christopher Schultheis

As the 2005-06 President of the History Forum, I welcome all History majors and minors to attend our weekly meetings, held Wednesdays at 5:15 in the Fishbowl (FOB 105C). The Forum is planning several events this fall for all of the SUNY Brockport community, including our popular movie nights and a trip to downtown Rochester to tour the old Erie Canal bed and Rochester subway tunnel before it is filled in. Additionally, we will be raising funds this fall for a student delegation to the American Historical Association's annual conference in Philadelphia in January 2006. As a highlight of our fall activities, we are co-sponsoring the annual History Department Synnesvedt lecture on September 29. We welcome new members' ideas for Forum activities! Email us at [hstforum@brockport.edu](mailto:hstforum@brockport.edu) if you have any questions or suggestions. We are also still selling the dark green with gold lettering T-shirt pictured to the left, with the Top Ten Reasons to be a History Major on the back. They are available through the department office for \$10 and can be shipped anywhere in the U.S. for an additional \$3.



# Scholar's Day

The History Department fielded six panels at the 13 April 2005 Scholars Day:

**US Occupations in Historical Perspective.** Chair: Dr. Anne Macpherson. Presenters: Victor Laveck, Jennifer Veras, Brian Schembs.

**Alcohol and Drugs in American History.** Chair: Dr. Morag Martin. Presenters: Angela Henlyshyn, Karolin King, Stephen Deady, Laura Talbert.

**Historical Perspectives on the Salem Witchcraft Crisis.** Chair: Dr. Paul Moyer. Presenters: Joshua Baker, Tricia Peone, Elizabeth Sharpe.

**"Where immortal spirits reign, there we shall meet again": a Photographic Essay on the Victorian Understandings of Life, Death, and Immortality.** Chair: Mary Buggie-Hunt. Presenter: Mary Coney.

**Beautiful Landscapes, Natural Disasters, and Polluted Cities in American History.** Chair: Dr. James Spiller. Presenters: Jason LaDue, Jenna Bower, Oksana Dzyadyk.

**American Revolution and Civil War.** Chair: Dr. Steve Ireland. Presenters: Edward Christian, Tricia Peone, Nicole Randazzo, Christopher Kirchmaier, Mary Buggie-Hunt.



Senior Jennifer Veras speaks at Scholar's Day on the US Occupation of the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924.

## Spring Awards

### Department Award Winners 2004-2005

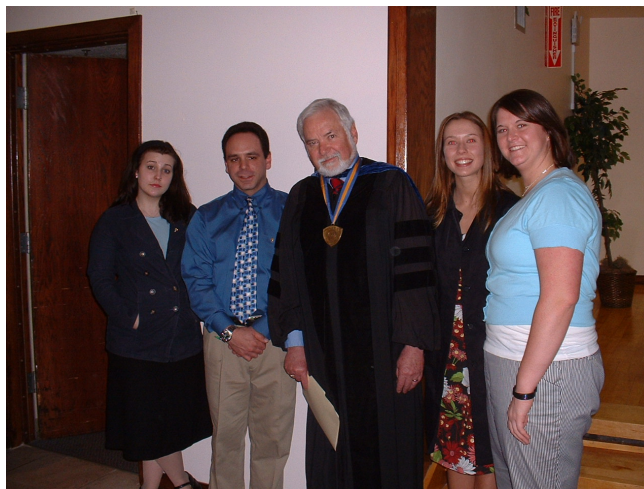
Jack Crandall Award – Elissa Pearce  
W. Wayne Dedman Award – Michael Mayne  
Kempes Schnell Award – Bradley R. Peterson  
Departmental Scholar – Jonathan F. Peone  
George S. Queen Award – Tricia Peone  
Robert Griswold History Award – Jenna Bower  
Arthur Lee History Award – Ryan Dunshie

### April 2005 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Joshua Baker	Timothy Lloyd
Jenna Bower	Jessica Ozzimo
Melinda Cater	Diane Palmer
Michah A. Chappell	Tricia Rhiannon Peone
Daniel Cody	Michael Piano
Benjamin J. Decker	Diana Richardson
Chad Dow	Jennifer Rossi
Matthew J. Ketterer	Elizabeth Sharpe
Karolin King	Cara M. Smith
Jason LaDue	Jedediah Twichell
Melanie Larsen	Mary Karen Wheat

### March 2005 Alpha Chi Inductees

Jenna Bower	Diana Richardson
Tricia Peone	Mary Karen Wheat
Michael Piano	



Tricia Peone, Michael Piano, Dr. Lynn Parsons, Jenna Bower and Mary Karen Wheat celebrate this year's Alpha Chi induction.

## Third Annual Celebration of Writing: Scholarly/Critical Writing Category

**First Place** – Adam Chamberlain, “Ideology and the Whiskey Rebels of 1794” (written for Lynn Parsons’ Senior Seminar)

**Second Place** – Tricia Peone, “Witches, Familiars, and the Devil: The Dark Side of Puritan Culture” (written for Paul Moyer’s 390)

**Third Place** – Alicia Dunn, “The Emmanuel Movement” (written for Steve Neese’s 390)

## Education and Human Development Award

**Richard L. Canuteson Award** – Michael Piano (for outstanding junior in elementary education program)

## Faculty Awards

**John P. Daly** – Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching  
**Kenneth O’Brien** – Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

**Lynn H. Parsons** – Chancellor’s Research Recognition Award

Also, five faculty members celebrated 35 years at Brockport: Arden Bucholz, Kathleen Kutolowski, Bruce Leslie, Salahuddin Malik, and Ken O’Brien

# Faculty News

**Arden Bucholz** - Highlighting this summer's activities was restructuring and reorganizing the manuscript for my biography of the first modern war planner, Helmuth von Moltke (1800-1891), currently under contract with Taylor & Francis Group, and due in London in December 2007. We are planning next summer to visit, research and photograph the major sites of Moltke's life, and the sites of his most famous battles. The After thirty-five years in a country house along the Lake Ontario shoreline, we have moved onto Main Street, Brockport, right across the street from the former house of Dr. Sig Synnestvedt, the History Department Chair who hired the thirteen historians who joined the Department in 1970. We are very pleased to be looking out at the home occupied by that wise, humane and generous teacher-scholar who taught us so much—by example—about standards of professional conduct in late 20th century America.

**Katherine Clark** enjoyed her first year in the department and the chance to offer courses on medieval Europe and the ancient world. She particularly enjoyed her reputation as the “doyenne of death” while offering an intensive swing course on the Black Death in the May 2005 session. She returned from six weeks of summer travel to London, Bavaria, and Austria. In Bavaria Dr. Clark researched manuscripts and transcribed unedited texts in the Ordinariatsbibliothek of the Diocese of Augsburg and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. These documents relate

to several of her current projects: an encyclopedia article on the medieval practice of avowed chastity, a journal article on the intercessory powers of widows on behalf of souls lingering in Purgatory, and a book manuscript on the pastoral care of pious widows in the later Middle Ages.

**John Daly** published an article titled “Proslavery Writing, 1820-1870,” in *Twain Voices: American History Through Literature*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover (Scribner’s 2005).

**Steve Ireland** and his wife Susan traveled to Ireland, France, and New York City this past summer. In France they visited Gene and Francoise McCreary at their chateau near Amiens, in the region of the Somme River, in northwestern France. When in the Brockport History Department the McCrearys organized, nurtured, taught in and administered our study abroad program in Paris. They toured the Gothic cathedral in Amiens and visited a German WWII military cemetery. In the Cathedral the human spirit soars; in the cemetery, despair in the face of massive human folly. Steve and Susan spent two weeks in NYC while Steve did research. While there they spent a pleasant evening with Mary and Scott Flieger, a 1970s graduate of Brockport with both a BA and an MA in History. Dr. Ireland also notes that the corpus of the Graduate Fellowship fund, the gift of one alumnus, has been restored to its original \$50,000 and will soon be named; and promises in the next Newsletter an update on emerging seminar room, the result of the kind attentions of another of our graduates.

**John W. Killigrew** will retire upon completion of the Fall 2005 semester. He plans to continue to study, research, and publish in Chinese military history with three projects in mind: a critique of the writings of He Boshi, a Song dynasty military scholar who compiled the famous *Seven Books of Military Strategy* at the behest of the emperor around 1185AD; an analysis of how Chairman Mao plagiarized the writings of Liu Bochong (1893-1986), the famous “One-Eyed Dragon” of the Chinese Communist Army; a study of the Qing dynasty military campaign against Islamic jihadists in the southern Xinjiang area, 1758-60. I also hope to do some consulting work pertaining to Chinese political and economic developments, and to travel, even though China in 2005 has “lost its socialist charm.” There are no immediate plans to move out of Brockport, but I certainly would like to be located in a place more convenient to Chinese language material.

**Kathleen Kutolowski** reports that her first full year as chair proved both enjoyable and an eye-opener. Interacting with large numbers of current majors and hearing from many alumni were among the greatest joys. After a one-year hiatus, Kutolowski returns to the

classroom this year and on September 22 will give the second in a series of bi-annual lectures at the Ontario County Historical Society. The series highlights connections between Ontario County and national developments, with Kutolowski's lecture probing the area's role in the kidnapping of William Morgan and the birth of the Antimasonic Party.

**Bruce Leslie's** 1992 book, *Gentlemen and Scholars: College and Community in the 'Age of the University'* originally published by Penn State University Press, has been issued in paperback with a new introduction by Transaction Press of Rutgers University. It was reprinted as part of Transactions' series of classic books on higher education.

**Jenny Lloyd** published an article, "Women Preachers in the Bible Christian Connexion," in *Albion*. She also reviewed a book on nineteenth-century women missionaries for the same journal. She is at work on a book on women in nineteenth-century Methodist sects, and spent some time in libraries in Oxford and Bristol this summer. She spent the spring as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and will Interim Director of Women's Studies for 2005-06. In April she was one of the outside evaluators for the Oswego Women's Studies program.

**Anne Macpherson** landed a contract from the University of Nebraska Press for her book "*Never a Coward Woman*": *The Gender Politics of Colonial Reform and Nationalist Struggle in Belize, 1912-1982*, and submitted the final manuscript in June 2005. The book should be out next year. She also reviewed a book on politics in the Belizean citrus industry for the *Journal of Peasant Studies*. She and Dr. Spiller are expecting their second daughter in October.

**Morag Martin** is on a Drescher Award Leave for Fall 2005. She will be working on finishing her book on consumerism and concepts of beauty in eighteenth-century France. She spent part of the summer in France, but this time not for research. She took her two-month-old daughter Beatrix to meet her extended family. She is looking forward to teaching a course on consumerism, her area of research, in the spring.

**Paul Moyer** attended a Council for Undergraduate Research conference in Washington D.C. in March, in particular a session on obtaining NEH grants in the humanities. He chaired a Scholar's Day panel in April on the Salem Witchcraft Crisis in which History majors Tricia Peone, Josh Baker, and Elizabeth Sharpe presented papers. He hopes to take the panel to a CUR-sponsored undergraduate research conference in Asheville NC, in April 2006. His essay "'Real' Indians, 'White' Indians, and the Contest for the Wyoming Valley" came out in William Pencak and Daniel K. Richter, ed. *Friends and Enemies in Penn's Woods: Indians, Colonists, and the Racial Construction of Pennsylvania* (Penn State 2004). He finished his book manuscript, "Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence along Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Frontier, 1750-1810," and is expecting a formal publication contract from Cornell University Press. He then rewrote another article which is under consideration at *Pennsylvania History* and is currently working on a second article on agrarian violence.

**Ken O'Brien** spent most of the summer catching up on various administrative duties, especially with the Honors Program and its Summer and Fall Orientation programs. He also made time to revise a draft of a chapter on "War and Modern America" that the editor indicated needed to be cut drastically, and reacquainted himself with the notes and some new secondary pieces on a piece on War, Women and Monroe County (a long overdue piece) that he is co-authoring with a colleague. He prepared a new, one-credit research course to the Honors program. In my spare time, I played golf, ("hacked" my way around the course if truth be told), and took several trips to Cleveland to spend long weekends with grandkids. He and his wife Diane ended the summer on the shore of Lake Erie in a cottage shared with their daughter and her family. So, we are among the few who can say that we had a lovely vacation week near beautiful downtown Toledo.

**Alison Parker** is planning a Summer 2006 course in London for Brockport undergraduate and graduate students on "The American Revolution from a British Perspective." During her planning trip during Spring 2005 she presented a talk to the American History Seminar at Cambridge University, Clare College, titled "'No Sex in Citizenship': Frances Willard's Political Theory." She also presented a paper titled "'Justice is Not Fulfilled So Long as Woman is Unequal Before the Law': Woman's Rights, Race, and Activism in the Writings of Frances Watkins Harper" at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. She also published an article titled "Women Activists and the U.S. Congress, 1870s-1920s," in the *The American Congress: The Building of Democracy*, as well as several book reviews.

**James Spiller** presented his paper "The Space Frontier and the Shifting Terrain of American National Identity" at the Organization of American Historians' annual conference in San Jose, CA, in early April 2005. He also spoke on "Defining the True American: National Identity as the Basis of American Power" at the Strong Museum's annual AP History Conference. Later in April he was an invited speaker on the panel "Documenting Science and Technology in the Digital Age" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Albany. He spent much of the summer working on his book manuscript on the history of US space and Antarctic exploration and research. In August during the anxiety over the space shuttle's return he appeared on local radio and TV news programs and authored an op. ed. in the *Democrat and Chronicle* on the current crisis within NASA.

**Wanda Wakefield** presented a paper "All Downhill from Here: Sliding Sports and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978" at the annual NASSH (North American Society for Sport History) conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin over Memorial Day weekend.

# Celebrating Lynn H. Parsons'

## A Student, Colleague, and Friend Pays Tribute

by Tim Palmer  
(BS 1990/MA 1991)

I met Professor Parsons in late August 1987. He was the chair of the History department, and I had to get his signature in order to begin classes as a freshman the next morning. I remember him asking me: "Why do you want to be a History Major?" I answered: "It's better than working." He sighed, nodded, and signed me in. My next experience with Dr. Parsons was his *Civil War and Reconstruction* class. I remember being in a heated "discussion" with him about some major point when I asked him: "Aren't you ever wrong?" He replied: "Yes, but not as often as you."

Professor Parsons became my mentor (unwittingly). I learned many aspects of my teaching style from him. When I earned my MA from Brockport in 1991, I went on to teach History at Monroe and Genesee Community Colleges. I thought of him at times and wondered how his health was. One night I was watching late night cable television, and there he was, on an obscure talk show discussing none other than John Quincy Adams. I called the number on the screen to impress him with an astute comment (John Quincy Who?), but the program had been taped earlier that day.

After recovering from my disappointment at not having spoken to my mentor on television, I contacted him at his villa in Maine. He wondered if I had ever considered teaching at Brockport College. At his suggestion, I applied for, and won a position as Adjunct Instructor of History at that institution. I was Professor Parsons' colleague! I had an office near (around the corner, a little to the left, and down the hall) his office! I was overcome by the realization that I could call him....Lynn.

I would claim that Lynn Parsons was the finest teacher I had. I won't do so because I now work in the same building with Professors Kutolowski, Killigrew, Leslie, Bucholz, Malik, O'Brien, and Ireland. **All** of them qualify as my finest teacher (I'm willing to teach in the spring).

Over the next few years, Lynn and I developed what I believe to be a friendship. We spent some time discussing various subjects over hotly contested and not very pretty games of pocket billiards. I believe he won a game. Maybe two games. In that period I came to respect and admire Lynn. More, I came to like him.

I have known Lynn Parsons as a teacher, a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. At his retirement I have been asked to write some words that honor him. I find writing those words not only unnecessary, but a touch redundant. How can I use words to honor a man who has not only

honored himself with his deeds, but has honored all those who have been fortunate enough to have known and to have worked with him?

I am going to miss Lynn Parsons at Brockport College. It won't be the same place without his dedicated teaching and his wry wit. I will be forced to find another mentor. I will be forced to find another friend. I will be forced to practice pocket billiards so that I can beat someone other than Lynn.



Lynn Parsons in the 1970's.

## Comments by Ken O'Brien

I wish to add only a few words about the Parsons, Dr. and Ms., whom I have known as colleagues, friends, and collaborators in academic crimes of several sorts. Most simply stated, there are no two people for whom I have higher regard. Their many services to this College, both individual and collective, are distinguished in every sense of the word, worthy of our deepest appreciation and highest praise. Interestingly, although each is a former President of the Faculty Senate, their service has been distinct, as each has gone his or her separate way in helping the community realize its fondest dreams. Among the values they have shared is their passion for making their community, our College, a better place, each and every day, year in, year out.

To say they will be missed is a terribly misleading understatement, for it does not begin to acknowledge what we are losing. Yet, we all know that this moment was fated from the first step they took on this campus, as it is for all of us. To an extraordinary extent—a much used word hereabouts over the past five years—they have worked to prepare us to carry on in their absence. For that among all the other services, they deserve our most heartfelt thanks.



# Three Decades at SUNY Brockport

## Career Highlights

Lynn Hudson Parsons received his BA in History from Grinnell College in Iowa in 1958 and his MA and PhD in History from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1964 and 1968 respectively. He taught at University College, Dublin, from 1962-64, at Grinnell College from 1964-65, at Wayne State University in Michigan from 1965-71, and came to Brockport in 1971, being promoted to full Professor in 1993.

## The Power of the Liberally Educated Mind: Remarks on the Retirement of Lynn Hudson Parsons

by Steve Ireland

My comments today will focus on the last few years of Lynn's professional life, especially since his promotion to the rank of Full Professor in 1993. This phase of his career, I believe, illustrates both the nature of his life-time contribution and the relationship of that contribution to liberal undergraduate education.

In 1993 Lynn won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, an honor achieved by only a small fraction of the full time faculty. At about the same time, he began a decade of service on the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Regional Library, published a book-length annotated bibliography of John Quincy Adams, revised his chapter in a world history text, and published a biographical sketch of Louise Catherine Adams. He also joined the Town of Sweden Historical Advisory Board and the Erie Canal Preservation Advisement Board, began a series of op-ed essays on contemporary issues in the Rochester *Democratic and Chronicle*, and joined Dr. Kenneth O'Brien in winning and then administering a quarter of a million dollar NEH Grant to commemorate WWII on the home front, a project that culminated in an edited book of essays on *The Home Front War* (1995), again a joint project with Dr. O'Brien.

In the late 1990s Lynn served for one year as Director of the Office of Student Retention, and became Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Regional Library. He also revised and republished an article on John Quincy Adams and the Indians, completed and published his outstanding biography of John Quincy Adams, and then gave Brockport much national visibil-



Lynn Parsons giving the keynote address at the May 2005 graduation ceremony.

ty through his stellar performance in the often-rebroadcast interview with Brian Lamb for the C-Span series on the American Presidents.

Since the turn of the century, Lynn has crafted an extraordinary sensitive and moving two-act play "The Tye More Binding," based on the correspondence of Abigail and John Adams. He has also published essays on John Quincy and Andrew Jackson, on John Quincy Adams and Afro-Americans, on Abigail Adams, as well as encyclopedia items on two national elections, and made at least two appearances on panels at the Adams Family History Site. He also completed his term as President of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Regional Library.

Last year, while chair of the History Department, he organized and chaired a panel at the American Historical Association annual meeting in Washington, DC on "Biography and History." The panel included Joseph Ellis, John Lukas, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Robert Remini and it again earned Lynn nation-wide TV coverage.

Throughout all of this, he continued his op-ed pieces in the Rochester *Democratic and Chronicle* and his two most recent essays are, in my thinking, among his most important. The first, entitled "Echoes of Fascism," explores some of the dangers to traditional American individual rights in our current search for security. The second, entitled "Liberals should never surrender religious values to the Conservatives," reminded both left and right that poverty, maldistribution of wealth, and human suffering are at least as worthy of the attention of professing Christians as are the sex lives of their neighbors.



So, that's what a tenured full professor in the History Department at SUNY Brockport does in the decade or so before he retires.

He teaches superbly.

He shares in the governance of his department, his institution, and his community.

He continues to hone and perfect his craft.

He shares his knowledge and his wisdom with an ever-broader popular audience.

He engages his community in serious discussion of sensitive issues.

And he exemplifies for his students, his colleagues, and the broader audience, the power of the Liberally Educated mind at work.

A proud graduate of one of America's best private liberal arts colleges, he has devoted much of his professional life to replicating here, at one of America's best public liberal arts Colleges, the tradition that molded him as a Grinnell undergraduate.

He has done what can be done to provide to the next generation the benefits our generation has derived from the wise and dedicated leadership of men and women like Lynn and Anne Parsons who bring passion, reason, wisdom, dedication to the awesome task of passing on to our posterity the extraordinary gifts our predecessors have won for us.

Dr. Lynn Hudson Parsons, an exceptional human being:

A fine teacher

A stimulating and provocative colleague

A productive scholar

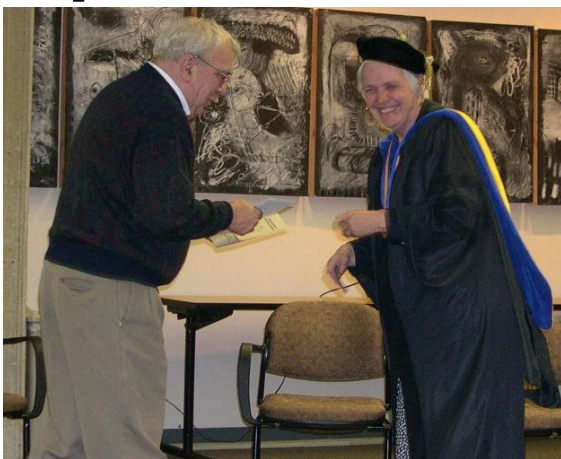
A social critic

An engaged intellectual

A friend.

It has been a privilege over some 30 years to have worked with him and to have learned from him. We wish him well in his next adventure. And we want him to know that we appreciate what he has done for us. And that we will miss him.

## May 2005 Graduation



Al Heilman, one of 89 Aug. '04-May '05 BS/BA graduates, is congratulated by Dr. Jenny Lloyd. Fourteen MA students also graduated.

## Synnestvedt Lecture

by Lynn H. Parsons

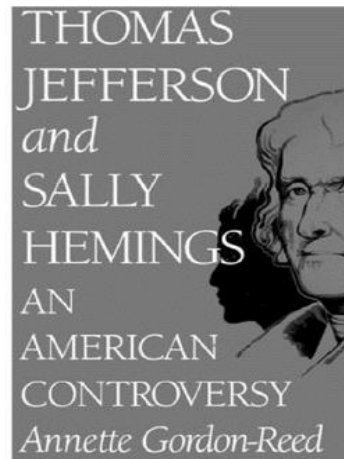
Professor Annette Gordon-Reed delivered the annual Synnestvedt Lecture to a packed house in the New York Room on April 7. Her topic was "The Hemings Family in Slavery and Freedom." Gordon-Reed's book *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (University Press of Virginia 1997) dealt with the controversial issue of the alleged relationship between Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of his several hundred slaves.

Ms. Gordon-Reed approached the issue, not as a historian, but as an attorney. She is a member of the faculty of the New York Law School in Manhattan and is a graduate of Harvard Law School, where she served on the board of the *Harvard Law Review*. As such, she discussed the legal distinction between "evidence" and "proof," and argued that while there was at that time no clear "proof" of the relationship one way or the other, that white male historians and biographers almost unanimously dismissed the evidence supporting the relationship, while historians and biographers who were not white or not male tended to take it more seriously.

Not long after the publication of her book, DNA testing between descendants of the Jefferson and Hemings families shifted the burden of proof from those who have previously defended the relationship to those who have dismissed it. In her lecture, Professor Gordon-Reed discussed the fall-out from the DNA revelations, its impact on the white descendants of Thomas Jefferson, and her own experiences in the public arena debating the issue with both proponents and critics.

A lively and amusing Q and A session followed, ranging from issues affecting the historical profession itself to the implications of the recent revelations concerning the late segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond's fathering of a child through a liaison with the young black woman in the 1930s.

Professor Gordon-Reed has recently collaborated with Vernon Jordan in his autobiography *Vernon Can Read*, and is working on a biography of Sally Hemings.



# Student and Faculty Exchanges with National University of Ireland in Maynooth

by Steve Ireland

This fall, SUNY Brockport will send six students to study at the National University of Ireland in Maynooth. Two of these are among our best History majors: Jessica Taft, a Delta College student, and Angela Henlyshyn, of the Honors program. A generous gift from one of our graduates allowed us to provide each of these students with a \$500 scholarship. Their semester abroad is a key part of our developing relationship with the Maynooth History Department. Another is faculty exchange.

This past summer Steve and Susan Ireland spent a delightful week at Maynooth where the chair of the Department, Professor Vincent Comerford, and his wife Phil, entertained them like visiting royalty: dinner in an early eleventh century castle, a visit to Cashil, a walk through the ruins of a twelfth century Carthusian monastery, a tour of Tipperary, all mixed in with a series of meetings with key people in the Maynooth History Department and Office of International Education (OIE). This September, a representative of the OIE, Ms Aoife Keogh, will spend a few days on our campus talking to students and faculty about study abroad in Ireland. Then, in the first week in November, Dr. Colm Lennon, a distinguished teacher-scholar from Maynooth, will visit us for a week. He will meet with students, get to know our faculty members, and deliver a scholarly lecture on Thursday November 3. He has published extensively on Irish history and on the history of Dublin with special emphasis on the late middle ages and early modern era. Alumni in the area are invited to the lecture. Let us know if you plan to attend and we will make an effort to introduce you to Dr Lennon.

Previously, in fall 2004, Professor Comerford and his wife Phil spent a week at Brockport during which he delivered a public lecture on the question of constructing Irish national identity. In spring 2005 Brockport Provost Timothy Flanagan and his wife Nancy traveled to Maynooth where Tim delivered a paper on comparative prison systems.

## Alumni News

**Ikraam Abdu-Noor** (BA 1998), who is completing his PhD in Arabic Studies and Anthropology at Yale, has published "Sunset in the Gardens of al-Andalus" in the online journal Nebula ([www.nobleworld.biz](http://www.nobleworld.biz)). Ikraam's research deals with Moroccan Andalusian music in its historical and poetic dimensions.

**John Antoski** (BS 1988) is K-12 Social Studies Coordinator in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools near Saratoga Springs, having previously spent 12 years as a middle school social studies teacher. At Brockport he especially enjoyed Dr. Kathy Kutolowski's classes and because of her spent more time on Jacksonian Democracy than his fellow teachers. He thanks her for her "positive influence upon me as well as my teaching methods over the years."

**Adam Chamberlain** (BS 2005), a double major in History and Political Science, has been accepted into the doctoral programs in Political Science at both Penn State and UNC-Chapel Hill, and has chosen to attend the latter.

**Scott Farrell** (BS 1989), an attorney in Florida, declared his candidacy for the US Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> District, in March 2005 on the Democratic ticket. For more see [www.farrell4congress.com](http://www.farrell4congress.com). Scott was also married to Stephanie "Sam" Nagel on the beach in Sarasota FL on 7 May 2005.

**Joel Freedman** (MA 1997) teaches US History, American Government and Introduction to Sociology as an adjunct instructor in social sciences at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua NY. He would enjoy hearing from classmates and can be reached at: 329 N. Main Street, Canandaigua NY, 14424, 585-394-6059.

**Frances Hanley** (BA 1971) retired in June 2004 after 32.5 years as an elementary teacher in the Auburn School District. Her son Tim is completing his Business Administration degree at SUNY Geneseo and her husband Jim of 33 years has an insurance agency in their hometown of Auburn NY.

**Barry Jones** (BS 1974, MEd 1981), dual certified in History and Mathematics, has taught mathematics at Lyndonville Central School since 1976, and is in his 24<sup>th</sup> year as an adjunct math instructor at SUNY Brockport. He has also given occasional guest lectures on WW2 to high school American history classes. He and his wife Anne, of 30 years, live in Medina and have three children: Sarah, a 2000 graduate of St. John Fisher in biology, Theresa, a 2003 graduate of Brockport and currently in Brockport's MA in English program, and Ben, a Senior at Fredonia majoring in Music Business. Teresa loves Brockport as

much as her dad, and “has taught me that the very best things about Brockport have not changed.” Barry always recommends Brockport’s History department to his high school seniors, and especially thanks Drs. Bucholz, Killigrew, and John and Kathy Kutolowski for “their unique teaching styles, their caring attitude toward students, and their incredible dedication to their subject. It was those people who inspired me to pursue a second major in history ... a lifelong interest which I cherish.”

**Hassan Jones** (BS 1995) has been appointed Head of the Middle School at Harley School in Rochester.

**Kathryn King** (BS 2004) has been accepted into the University of Buffalo’s MA program in Women’s Studies.

**Diahn (Taverna) Kleehammer** (BA 1993) is an attorney specializing in labor law with Monroe 2 Orleans BOCES. She graduated from SUNY Buffalo law school in 1996, the same year she married Lawrence Kleehammer. They had twin boys, Bradley and Dylan, in October 2004 and Diahn is currently on maternity leave.

**John Koerner** (MA 2004) has just published a book, *The Mysteries of Father Baker* (Pseudo Press), about the miracles attributed to Father Nelson Baker of Buffalo.

**Holly (Raubert) LaGreca** (BS 2003), a Social Studies teacher at Apache Trails High School in Arizona, was married to Anthony LaGreca (BS in Health 2003) in January 2005. She plans to attend Arizona State University in spring 2006 for a master’s in Education Administration.

**Dr. Elizabeth Littel-Lamb** (MA 1995) is Assistant Professor at St. Bonaventure University specializing in Chinese history.

Peter McDermott (BS 2005) has been accepted to Temple University Law School and plans to become a public defender.

**Martin Mulford** (BA 1995, MA 1997), especially remembered for his renditions of *Holy Night* at departmental Christmas parties, received his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in May 2005. His dissertation “Changing Models: The Conflict between Settlers and Administration in German East Africa, 1900-1914” examined the tensions between the German émigrés and the colonial administration in what later became Tanganyika in the British Empire and today is part of Tanzania. Martin, his partner Julia, and son Justin will spend the autumn in Berlin where he will be doing research to complete preparing his dissertation for publication.

**Jane Oakes** (MA 2003) has been awarded a \$2000 grant by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts to help fund her research and photography project on the opera houses and halls of Livingston County. She is working with pho-

tographer Geoff Tesch of the Mendon Preservation Board to document both the buildings themselves and related artifacts held by private collectors and local historical societies. These images will be housed in the Livingston County Historian’s office for public use, and a slide show will be available for booking. In April Jane ran a lecture/slide show and exhibition related to her project in the theater above the Genesee Village building.

**Ronald F. Satta** (MA 2000) received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Rochester in May 2005, having completed his dissertation titled “The Sacred Text: Biblical Authority in Nineteenth-Century America.” A chapter from it has been published in a noted theological journal, while an article titled “The Case of Professor Charles A. Briggs: Inerrancy Affirmed,” appeared in *Trinity Journal* in spring 2005. Ron also received two prizes from U of R: the Glyndon Vandusen Prize from the History Department for his dissertation research and the Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a graduate student. Ron is teaching two sections of HST 211 at Brockport this semester.

**Patricia Stevens** (BS 1970) was featured in the 7 March 2005 issue of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle as Commissioner of Monroe County Department of Human Services. She oversees a budget of \$500 million and 900 employees. Stevens was appointed to the position in July 2004.

**Ronald E. Wilson** (BS 1970) retired from Port Byron High School in 2003 after 33 years as a Social Studies teacher. He is still active in local government, having been either mayor or

## History Alum Reports From Iraq

by **Jeremy M. McKenzie** (BS1997), CPT, MS, Evacuation Plans Officer, Aviation Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized)

Things have been busy here. First and most important to me personally has been competing my MBA with the University of Maryland. I finished my final course with an A, which made my final GPA 3.72. I have also been busy flying. I am now over 112 hours in the last five months. I have gotten to fly throughout much of the country and just recently got up to northern Iraq. It is pretty in the north with rolling desert hills and mountains. I am flying the Air Assault mission here and have probably flown more than a couple thousand passengers now. I have also flown several VIP missions including Secretary of State Rice and LTG Petraeus, the Commanding General in charge of building the Iraqi Army and security forces. Yesterday I had the opportunity to evacuate four casualties, one American two Iraqi military and one Iraqi civilian. The casualty count on the back of my helicopter goes to show the cost of the war that isn’t being talked about in the American

media. A lot of that cost is being born by our Iraqi brothers in arms. I, like many of them, am sick and tired of the terrorists that continue to push their agenda of extremism through violence against innocent people. Every flight I am sure that we are saving lives because the skies are significantly safer than the roads.

I have also been working as an Aviation Planner focusing on redeployment and with my boss in forming a partnership between our Brigade and the 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Air Force Helicopter Wing. It is quite small at this point with about 40 pilots and a few UH-1H Hueys and Bell 206 Jet Rangers. The pilots are quite an interesting group. They are all Iraqis and most of them learned to fly 20 years ago when Saddam made his military a meritocracy so he could fill the ranks in order to win the fight with Iran. Most of the pilots have more than 2000 hours in combat in four or five different aircraft. A few of them, including CPT Muhammad and LTC Ali, speak good English and I have gotten to be good friends with them. They are tired of the lack of security and blame a lot of it on foreign insurgents. I have a great deal of respect for all of their soldiers. These men and women are risking their lives just to come to work right now. They cannot wear their uniforms home as they will become targets, but they still come to work. This speaks a great deal about the potential of Iraq no matter what your personal beliefs are at this point.

We cannot leave this country yet. The Iraqi Security Forces are not ready to take the mission. It takes time to build forces that are competent and able to operate on the collective level. We need to support them during this period and help to get them on their feet so when we leave we don't leave a vacuum.

## A Brockport Yank in Cambridge

by W. Bruce Leslie

In 1938, Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor starred in *A Yank in Oxford*, one of Hollywood's attempts to foster Anglo-American friendship in the face of rising fascism. My semester in Cambridge was considerably more prosaic. Rather than starring in athletic contests and giving speeches at 'high table' in a Gothic college, I spent most of my time reading in a 6' x 12' room in the Catholic Theological Institute and ate in one of the modern colleges, built more recently than Hartwell Hall. Still, walks along the River Cam looking at Gothic spires and attending evensong in Kings College Chapel provided charming interludes and brushes with tradition.

For American historians at Cambridge the feature of the week is the Monday afternoon seminar in Clare College. Visiting Americans and resident Brits present papers for an hour. Then wine bottles are opened and discussion begins. The highlight for me was our own Alison Parker's presentation of a stimulating paper on Frances Willard and the WCTU, a topic that did not deter us from imbibing. Alison's enthusiasm for art history and gardening inspired us to explore the chapels and gardens of colleges dating back to the Reformation.

Cambridge gave me a privileged perch on which to begin writing a socio-historical examination of the relationship of American and British higher education. Cambridge and Oxford are Gothic islands unto themselves, with wealth far beyond any other British university (though less than many American universities). But however atypical, they are central to the book. Cambridge and Oxford have dominated English higher education since the 1200s, their graduates founded the first American colleges, and they have been the model for many American practices.

My co-author is John Halsey, the director of Brockport's overseas programs in England. I do hope that many undergraduates meet him by participating in one of our programs in 'the green and pleasant land.'

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### Alumni News

Attention History Alumni! We'd like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by e-mail: [trombaut@brockport.edu](mailto:trombaut@brockport.edu). You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620. Check us out on the web at [www.brockport.edu/history](http://www.brockport.edu/history). Many thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Any news that you'd like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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